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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 62 NUMBER 15

CATTLE (Page 400)

PRUNES (Page 404)

CONTENTS

Page

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

Cotton-Price Quotations on World Markets 422
Argentine Cotton Acreage Smaller Than Previously Forecast ... 423
1950-51 Production of Cotton In Greece Revised Upward 424

FATS AND OILS

Italy Reports Below-Averagr Olive Oil Production 411
Uruguay Announces Export Conditions for Flaxseed, Linseed Oil and By-Products 412
U. S. 1950 Sesame Seed Imports Increase From 1949 413
U. S. Tung Oil Arrivals in 1950 414
China's 1950 Tung Oil Exports Through Port Of Hong Kong 415
Ceylon Increases Export Duty on Principal Coconut Products .. 416
Belgian Congo Palm Production Continues to Expand 416
Mexican Imports Tariff on Animal Fats Revised Upward 418
U.K. Whale Oil Production in 1950-51 419
Venezuelan Coconut Growers Seek Higher Copra Price 420

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

World 1950 Dried Prune Production Below Average 404
Spanish Government Revises Almond and Filbert Export Prices for Dollar Areas 407

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

Paraguay Increases Rice Production 420

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

World Cattle Numbers in 1950 and 1951 400
Uruguayan Dairy Situation 410
Short Feed Supply to Affect Netherlands Poultry Industry 410
U.K. Grants Domestic Price Increases for Meat Animals, Milk and Eggs 411

TOBACCO AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Madagascar's Tobacco Production Lower; Exports Higher 408
Austrian Tobacco Imports Increased 408
Canada's Tobacco Consumption Increased 409

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

APRIL 9, 1951

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Swedish egg production in 1951 may be considerably lower than in 1950. Effective February 26, the Swedish Government has raised the price of subsidized imported feeds and has imposed an export levy of about 3.9 cents per dozen. This action, affecting some 325,000 producers, is expected to be the subject of serious discussion in the annual agricultural price negotiations between the Government and the producers.

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Peru's cotton export tax, to be applied on exports from the 1951 crop, was reduced by 100 soles per Spanish quintal (6.6 cents a pound) by a decree issued late in March. The export tax is determined by subtracting a cost of production estimate, fixed annually by the government as a basis for export tax calculations, from each spot quotation on the local market involving an export contract. The cost-of-production figure fixed for the 1950 crops was 270 soles per quintal (17.81 cents) for Tanguis and 290 soles (19.13 cents) for Pima. When these figures are subtracted from the latest quotations published in Foreign Crops and Markets and miscellaneous local taxes amounting to around 16 or 17 cents a pound are added, the total taxes amount to 31.43 U.S. cents a pound for Tanguis and 42.95 cents for Pima. The lower export taxes on the 1951 cotton crops will be made effective by raising the cost of production estimate by 100 soles (6.6 cents).

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS IN 1950 AND 1951 1/

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1951 are estimated at 806.3 million head by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This preliminary estimate places the world cattle population at a record level and about 2 percent more than the revised estimates for 1950. Current numbers are 8 percent above the 1936-40 prewar average. A further moderate increase in world cattle numbers is in prospect during 1951; however, a tightening of feed supplies in many important cattle areas may curtail further expansion of herds.

Cattle numbers continued their upward trend in 1950 following 3 generally favorable seasons for forage and feed supplies. Strong demand for beef and veal encouraged cattle growers in most areas to expand breeding programs. The number increased moderately during 1950 on all continents except in Asia and South America where numbers were maintained at the level of the previous year. The largest numerical gains were registered in Eastern Africa and North America, with minor increases in Europe and Oceania. Number of cattle in North and South America now exceed the 1936-40 prewar average by about 22 percent, while in Europe and the Soviet Union they are approaching their respective prewar levels. Cattle numbers in the Soviet Union, however, are still below the 1951 official goal. Largely due to marked gains in Ethiopia, Africa cattle numbers are currently placed substantially above the 1936-40 average. Numbers in Asia are slightly below prewar.

The outlook for 1951 is for further important gains in North American numbers. Moderate increases in cattle numbers are forecast for Europe and the Soviet Union. Some leveling of numbers is likely in Europe, as prewar levels are being approached or exceeded, even though better grassland management and improved feeding practices have increased the livestock carrying potential of a given area under feed. Cattle in Europe largely subsist on roughage and to a large extent do not depend upon the supply of imported feed, although in places imported oilcake and grain are important as production feed supplements. Difficulties and uncertainties as to the importation of feedstuffs due to balance-of-payments conditions and to rising prices may slow down the development of herds.

Cattle numbers in the United States during 1950 increased about 5 percent and are now 26 percent above the 1936-40 prewar average. The current cattle population is short of the 1945 record by only 1.4 million head. High prices for beef and veal and improvement of pastures in recent years have generally benefited the competitive position of cattle raising among farm enterprises. In 1950, the downward trend of Canadian cattle numbers was halted. Numbers are now 1 percent above the prewar level.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

CATTLE: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1941-45, annual 1946-1951

Continent and country	Month of 1/ estimate	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950 2/	1951 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	8,246	9,103	9,961	9,016	8,944	8,251	8,243	8,292
Costa Rica		366	415	-	-	506	515	527	611
El Salvador	July	680	714	650	686	765	-	-	-
Guatemala	July	520 4/	657	-	- 1/	901	901	800	-
Honduras	July	524 4/	674	-	1,050	-	1,000	950	-
Mexico	Dec. 31 1/ 4/5/	11,716 4/	11,959	-	-	-	14,500	14,500	14,600
Nicaragua	4/	800	-	-	-	1,200	-	1,275	-
United States	Jan. 1	66,706	79,978	82,434	81,207	78,126	78,298	80,052	84,179
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	5,024 4/	4,823 6/	4,600	-	-	-	4,550	4,600
Dominican Republic	June 4/	885	-	597	- 1/	597	602	-	-
Estimated total		96,700	111,300	116,600	114,700	111,900	112,100	113,800	118,300
EUROPE									
Albania 7/	4/	413	-	371	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	Dec. 1 1/ 4/	2,600	2,530 8/	2,187 8/	2,206 8/	2,158 8/	2,109 8/	2,203 8/	2,279
Belgium	Jan. 1 1/	1,724	1,565	1,539	1,652	1,588	1,688	1,902	-
Bulgaria 7/	Dec. 31 1/ 4/	1,822	1,988	1,900	2,005	-	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia	Jan. 1 4/	4,475	4,403	4,143	3,975	3,275	3,663	4,140	-
Denmark	Dec. 31 1/	3,108	2,908 9/	3,094 9/	3,004 9/	2,668 9/	2,751 9/	2,886 9/	2,974
Finland	Nov. 1 10/	1,850	1,682	1,673	1,566	1,452	1,542 5/	1,844	-
France	Fall 1/	15,504 8/	15,217 8/	14,273	15,100	15,125	15,434	15,404	15,722
Germany - Western	Dec. 1 1/ 4/	12,114	11,585	11,228	11,185	10,291	10,573	10,883	11,150
Greece 7/	Dec. 31 1/ 3/	1,278	-	708	788	752	732	732	762
Hungary 7/	Spring	1,905	2,038 8/	1,104 8/	1,441	-	-	-	-
Ireland	June	4,021	4,165	4,146	3,950	3,921	4,127	4,322	-
Italy	July 3/	8,200	7,700	7,600	7,800	8,000	8,150 1/	8,162 1/	8,410
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/ 4/	108 4/	118	111	117	114	111	115	119
Netherlands	May	2,693	2,325	2,410	2,367	2,313	2,540	2,723	-
Norway	June 20	1,390	1,245	1,267	1,225	1,175	1,224	1,237	-
Poland	June 30 3/	9,924	-	6,600	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/ 11/	905	1,000	950	-	1,000	-	-	-
Rumania 7/	Dec. 31 1/ 4/	3,700	-	3,328	3,114	-	-	-	-
Spain	Dec. 31 1/ 3/	3,739 4/	4,074	3,808	-	4,000	-	-	-
Sweden	Summer	2,959	2,759	2,869	2,797	2,625	2,584	2,648	2,675
Switzerland	April	1,663	1,510	1,472	1,451	1,424	1,478	1,530	-
United Kingdom	June	8,798	9,278	9,629	9,567	9,806	10,244	10,620	-
Yugoslavia 7/	Dec. 31 1/	4,181	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated total		102,900	96,600	92,300	94,400	93,500	96,400	99,500	101,700
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1 3/	59,800	-	47,000	46,800	50,000	54,000	56,000	57,200
ASIA									
Iran	March 4/	2,797 4/	2,135	2,500	-	-	-	3,500	3,600
Iraq 7/		- 3/	890	992	-	-	952	1,245	-
Turkey 7/	Dec. 31 1/	8,611	10,544	10,658	10,663	10,708	11,216	11,250	11,134
Burma 7/	Dec. 31 1/	6,165 4/	5,143	4,627	4,796	5,209	-	5,500	-
Ceylon 7/	Dec. 31 1/	1,618 4/	1,721	1,812	1,661	1,740	1,792	-	-
China 12/	May	25,000	23,500	23,200	23,600	-	-	-	-
India, Dominion of 7/	Jan. 1 3/	180,000 4/	177,000	177,000	-	-	-	-	180,200

ASIA (Continued)									
Japan	Dec. 31 1/	1,803 4/	2,253	2,319	1,990	-	2,294	2,480	-
Formosa 7/	Dec. 31 1/	354	315	291	280	298	310	324	-
Korea - South	Dec. 31 1/ 4/	922	965	639	609	645	684	-	-
Indonesia 7/	Dec. 31 1/	7,669	-	-	6,200	-	-	6,370	6,390
Pakistan 7/	Jan. 1 3/	33,000 4/	31,500	-	-	31,000	-	-	-
Philippines, Rep. of 7/	Jan. 1 4/	4,340	-	-	-	-	-	2,755	3,100
Siam 7/	Mar. 31	11,303	-	-	7,544	-	8,000	-	-
Estimated total 13/		295,600	286,500	279,600	281,500	282,000	285,300	289,000	289,100
SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina	July 4/	33,762 4/	33,073	- 14/	41,268	43,000	45,000	42,000	43,000
Bolivia	Dec. 31 1/ 4/	1,921 3/	2,445	-	3,039	3,191	3,499	3,849	-
Brazil	4/	40,807 4/	43,950	- 1/	46,358	46,000	46,250	46,400	-
Chile	June	2,489	2,363	2,397	2,338	2,310	2,344	2,331	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/ 4/	8,010 4/	11,012	13,000	13,797	13,893	14,200	14,500	-
Ecuador	4/	1,300 4/	1,174	-	-	1,520	-	-	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31 1/ 4/	3,259 4/	3,808	-	4,100	-	4,087	3,865	3,870
Peru		- 4/	2,376	2,662	- 1/	2,662	-	-	-
Uruguay	May 3/	8,297 3/	6,256	6,834	-	-	8,700 1/	8,600 1/	8,000
Estimated total		105,600	110,600	122,400	126,000	128,000	131,500	128,900	129,500
AFRICA									
Algeria 15/		841	874	683	901	698	747	765	800
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	4/	2,700 3/	3,195	-	3,195	-	-	-	-
Kenya	4/	5,239 4/	4,771	4,531	4,774	5,589	-	-	-
Tanganyika	Dec. 31 1/	5,000	5,687	6,082	6,420	6,370	6,425	-	-
Uganda	Mar. 31	2,466	2,422	2,394	2,454	2,485	-	-	-
Egypt 7/	June 4/5/	2,021 4/	2,145	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia		-	-	-	-	-	-	- 1/	25,000
French Morocco 15/	Dec. 31 1/	1,970	2,506	1,800	1,395	1,326	1,549	1,752	2,000
Madagascar 15/	Dec. 31 1/	5,172	5,780	5,941	5,806	5,737	5,603	5,412	5,641
Mozambique	Dec. 31 1/	543	559	585	587	631	659	700	-
Northern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 1/	618	647	697	699	770	807	878	950
Angola	3/	2,306 3/	2,687	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 1/	2,340	2,669	2,913	2,905	2,748	2,822	3,004	-
Spanish Morocco		259	310	223	234	300	-	-	-
Tunisia 15/	Dec. 31 1/	494	521	501	401	370	340	387	395
Union of South Africa	August	11,636 3/	13,068	12,593	12,113	12,470	12,242	-	-
Estimated total		64,400	74,400	80,300	80,400	82,000	83,200	84,000	90,300
OCEANIA									
Australia	Mar. 31 1/	13,285	13,828	13,878	13,427	13,735	14,124	14,597	15,000
New Zealand	Jan. 31	4,449	4,524	4,667	4,634	4,716	4,723	-	-
Estimated total		18,100	18,800	18,900	18,400	18,900	19,200	19,700	20,200
Estimated world total		743,100	743,200	757,100	762,200	766,300	781,700	790,900	806,300

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1945 estimate of 9,961,000 head is shown under 1946. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Census or estimate for single year. 4/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 5/ June. 6/ Official census July 1, 1946, reported 4,136,000 head. 7/ Data include buffaloes. 8/ Official statistics; may be an underestimate of actual numbers. 9/ Also includes number of cattle in towns, which totaled 50,000 head in 1947. 10/ September. 11/ Census December 31, 1934. 12/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces) Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 13/ Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia. 14/ Census, May 10 - 12, 1947. 15/ Data include only number taxed.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.

Canada carried into 1951 large supplies of feed grain which should provide for the expansion of livestock numbers during the coming year. In Mexico, numbers were increased slightly in 1950 and are 25 percent above prewar. With foot-and-mouth disease under greater control, Mexican ranchers have expanded breeding programs. Numbers in Cuba are up, with a greater emphasis on dual-purpose cattle.

Except for the drought-stricken countries in Southeastern Europe, better pastures and adequate feed supplies during 1948, 1949 and 1950 contributed materially to increase European numbers within 1 percent of the prewar level. All countries, excluding Hungary and Yugoslavia, are reported to have maintained or expanded herds. However, only half of the European countries have reached or exceeded their prewar cattle population. Numbers in the United Kingdom and France, both important cattle countries, are now placed at 24 and 2 percent, respectively, above the 1936-40 levels. Germany, by increasing production, is currently estimated to be only 8 percent below prewar.

According to all information, cattle numbers in the Soviet Union, although still somewhat below prewar, increased 2 percent during 1950 when compared with the previous year. The postwar upward trend is largely attributed to intensive breeding programs.

In South America estimates of numbers early in 1951 place the total cattle population on a par with a year earlier. Breeders in Argentina, because of favorable pastures, partially rebuilt herds which were diminished by the 1949-50 drought. A marked interest in sheep has forced liquidation of cattle in Uruguay. Numbers in Brazil are believed to have increased slightly, but the projected importation of large quantities of low-cost Argentine beef may discourage further expansion of Brazilian herds. Widespread outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Colombia and Venezuela will undoubtedly limit development of numbers during 1951.

Favorable feed and forage conditions in Australia were generally associated with the 3 percent increase in the cattle population. Numbers are now reported at 13 percent above the prewar average. In New Zealand, a slight rise in numbers was due, for the most part, to good pastures.

Cattle numbers increased considerably in Ethiopia during 1950, and are believed to be substantially above the prewar level, although official estimates for prewar are not available. In other African countries, cattle numbers rose about 2 percent during 1950 and are about 12 percent above the 1936-40 average. Increases occurred in French North Africa, Madagascar, and Northern Rhodesia, while other countries showed minor increases or maintained numbers at the 1950 level. In the Union of South Africa good prices and improved pastures are expected in 1951 to reverse the downward trend in cattle numbers.

Asiatic cattle numbers during 1950 were maintained near the level of the previous year. Numbers are now within 2 percent of the 1936-40 average. Some gains occurred in Iran, Japan, the Philippine Republic, and Siam. The cattle populations of China and India are unchanged, being reported as about the same as during the previous year. Cattle numbers in Turkey have decreased slightly, but are placed at 29 percent above prewar.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

WORLD 1950 DRIED PRUNE PRODUCTION BELOW AVERAGE [1]

The 1950 preliminary estimate of dried prune production in the 9 leading foreign producing countries and the United States is 185,700 short tons (revised) compared with 213,500 tons (revised) in 1949 and 216,800 tons (revised) in 1948. The estimate is about 20 percent below the 10-year (1939-48) average and the 5-year (1944-48) average.

The estimates of production made on November 6, 1950 have been revised upward slightly for the United States and downward for Australia and France. The 1950 pack was the world's smallest since 1944 and the smallest United States pack in many years.

On March 1, 1951 for all practical purposes there were no stocks of 1950 pack prunes available in the foreign countries. The new-crop fruit in the Southern Hemisphere countries was just being harvested. The forecast of production in the Southern Hemisphere countries indicates about the same total is to be expected in 1951. It is too early to forecast production in the Northern Hemisphere countries.

Foreign trade in prunes during the 1950-51 marketing season has been small. In the foreign countries only relatively minor quantities were moved. United States exports from the beginning of the season to February 1 totalled 21,276 short tons, of which 16,742 tons were to European destinations and 2,747 tons to Canada. Sweden was the destination for 5,019 tons of the United States exports, the Netherlands 4,403 tons and Germany 2,728 tons. Exports during the present season to date were less than a third of the 1949-50 export of 79,700 tons. This season's exports are only about a quarter of the postwar (1945-50) average of 83,584 tons. The small export volume is largely the result of the smallest pack in the United States for many years.--By Walter R. Schreiber, based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

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[1] A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Exports of dried prunes, 1950-51 with comparisons

Crop year, September-August

Country	Averages		Annual			
	1940/41-1949/50	1945/46-1949/50	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Austria	604	1,208	2,792	3,241	0	0
Belgium	2,018	3,857	3,845	3,753	3,312	2,011
Czechoslovakia	209	261	0	0	0	0
Denmark	170	339	55	1,320	318	86
Finland	7	13	3	63	0	7
France	120	202	217	1	788	955
Germany	13,021	26,042	76,408	30,062	23,738	2,728
Ireland	307	542	13	572	0	0
Italy	900	1,623	1,529	3,415	2,227	879
Netherlands	735	1,298	290	422	5,031	4,403
Norway	251	492	1	1	728	27
Poland	324	[1]	0	0	0	0
Sweden	2,538	4,009	0	0	9,173	5,019
Switzerland	766	951	576	598	1,229	628
United Kingdom	28,518	22,940	4	22,531	21,758	0
Other Europe	358	312	3	533	884	0
Total Europe	50,846	64,089	85,736	66,512	69,186	16,742
Canada	10,222	8,742	4,381	6,544	6,524	2,747
Others	8,625	10,753	24,169	4,287	3,990	1,787
Total	69,693	83,584	114,286	77,343	79,700	21,276

[1] Less than ½ ton.

Compiled from official sources of the Bureau of Census.

PRUNES, DRIED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, 1950 - with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Argentina	Australia	Chile	France	South Africa
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Averages					
1939-48	3,700	2,800	1,900	4,000	1,300
1944-48	4,700	2,800	2,600	5,600	1,700
Annual					
1944	2,900	3,600	1,900	3,800	1,600
1945	4,300	1,900	1,800	1,100	1,300
1946	4,800	3,000	2,600	4,100	1,600
1947	6,300	2,200	2,900	11,000	1,900
1948	5,200	3,600	3,600	8,100	1,900
1949 1/	6,000	2,200	3,100	13,200	1,800
1950 1/	6,600	2,500 2/	3,300	6,800 2/	500

Year	Balkan Countries 3/	Foreign total	United States	World total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Averages				
1939-48	23,700	37,400	195,700	233,100
1944-48	14,100	31,500	199,400	230,900
Annual				
1944	4,200	18,000	163,200	181,200
1945	21,700	32,100	233,800	265,900
1946	15,200	31,300	222,200	253,500
1947	12,200	36,500	200,200	236,700
1948	17,000	39,400	177,400 2/	216,800 2/
1949 1/	26,000	52,300	161,200 2/	213,500 2/
1950 1/	18,500	38,200 2/	147,500 2/	185,700 2/

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Revised.
3/ Includes Bulgaria, Hungry, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

SPANISH GOVERNMENT REVISES ALMOND AND FILBERT EXPORT PRICES FOR DOLLAR AREAS

The Spanish Government, on February 22, 1951, announced the following minimum official prices for almonds and filberts f.o.b., Spanish ports to dollar areas:

Shelled Almonds (per 220 pounds)	U. S. Dollars
Valencias Unselected	81.00
Mallorca Propietario	-
Mallorca Selected	87.00
Valencias Selected	88.00
Esperanzas	88.00
Planetas	91.00
Larguetas	98.00
Jordanas	99.00
Marconas	101.00
Unshelled Almonds	
Tarragona Mollares	41.00
Cartagena Mollares	40.00
Fitas	36.00
Duras (hard shell)	-
(Special Almond Exchange Rate 24.09 pesetas per U. S. dollar)	
Shelled Filberts (per 220 lbs.)	127.00
Unshelled Filberts	51.00
(Special Filbert Exchange Rate 18.615 pesetas per U. S. dollar)	

According to the Spanish Ministry of Industry and Commerce 10,484 short tons of shelled almonds were exported from August 1, 1950 and January 31, 1951. These statistics show 2,739 tons were exported to the United Kingdom, 329 tons to the United States and 307 tons to Denmark. The export of unshelled almonds during the same period totalled 535 tons of which 62 tons were to Canada, 57 tons to the United Kingdom and 49 tons to Egypt.

The export of filberts during the same period totalled 204 short tons of shelled and 14 tons of unshelled. Switzerland and Austria were the destination for 30 tons of shelled filberts each and the United Kingdom purchased 9 tons.

TOBACCO AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

MADAGASCAR'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION LOWER; EXPORTS HIGHER

Madagascar's 1949-50 tobacco production was 33 percent below 1948-49, according to Sidney Weintraub, vice consul, Tananarive. Exports of leaf tobacco during 1950 were 48 percent above 1949.

The country's 1949-50 leaf crop is estimated at 6.2 million pounds compared with 9.2 million pounds in 1948-49. Acreage planted to tobacco during 1949-50 totaled 15,271 acres compared with 15,105 acres in 1948-49. During the 1949-50 crop year 3.5 million pounds, or 57 percent of the total tobacco produced in Madagascar, was grown in Majunga Province, 1.7 million pounds, or 27 percent, was produced in Tulear Province and Tananarive produced 705,000 pounds, or 12 percent. The remaining leaf was produced in Fianarantsoa and Tamative Provinces.

Exports of tobacco and tobacco products during 1950 totaled 6.3 million pounds as compared to 4.3 million pounds in 1949. France took all of Madagascar's 1950 tobacco exports, most of which was leaf.

Imports of tobacco during 1950 totaled 701,800 pounds which includes 66,000 pounds of leaf from Mauritius. The majority of imports during 1950 were manufactured tobacco products. Algeria, the most important supplier in 1950, supplied 443,462 pounds or 63 percent, France, second in importance, supplied 187,100 pounds or 27 percent. The remaining 80,238 pounds were supplied in varying quantities by Mauritius, Greece, the United States and the Netherlands in the order named.

AUSTRIAN TOBACCO IMPORTS INCREASED

Austrian leaf imports during the first 9 months of 1950 were 16 percent above the corresponding 1949 period, according to R.A.O. Schwartz, Assistant Attache, American Legation, Vienna.

The country's leaf imports during January-September 1950 totaled 14.5 million pounds as compared to 12.5 million pounds in the same 1949 period and 14.8 million during the 1948 calendar year. The United States supplied, under the European Recovery Program, 5.8 million pounds during the first 9 months of 1950, Turkey, the second largest supplier of leaf, supplied 3.3 million pounds, Yugoslavia ranked third with 1.5 million, Greece, fourth with 1.1 million and Brazil, fifth with 1.0 million pounds. Hungary supplied 661,000 pounds, the Dominican Republic 378,000 pounds, the United Kingdom 331,000, the Netherlands 179,000 pounds and Indonesia 3,700 pounds, during the first 9 months of 1950. In addition to leaf, Austria imported 2,811 pounds of cigarettes and cigars of which 2,355 pounds were supplied by the United States and the remaining 456 pounds by Swtizerland during January-September 1950. Imports of other manufactured tobacco during the first 9 months of 1950 totaled 440,000 pounds, all from Switzerland.

Reexports of leaf tobacco during the first 9 months of 1950 totaled 2.3 million pounds. Triests, the largest tobacco export outlet, took 1.9 million pounds while Germany, the second largest, took the remaining 400,000 pounds.

CANADA'S TOBACCO CONSUMPTION INCREASED

Consumption of tobacco in Canada during the first 9 months (January-September) 1950 were 4 percent above the same 1949 period and 7 percent above the corresponding period of 1948, according to P.C. Habib, Third Secretary, American Embassy, Ottawa.

Canada's tobacco consumption during the first 9 months of 1950 totaled 62.0 million pounds. This compares with 59.6 million pounds in the corresponding 1949 period, and 57.2 million in the same 1948 period. Of the total leaf consumed in the first 9 months of last year, 60.9 million pounds was Canadian-grown and 1.1 million was imported. In the corresponding period of 1949 consumption totaled 58.4 million pounds of Canadian-grown leaf and 1.2 million pounds of imported leaf. In the same period of 1948 56.0 million pounds of Canadian leaf was consumed and 1.2 million pounds of imported. A comparison of types of leaf consumed shows flue-cured, the most important type, made up 53.0 million pounds or 85 percent of the total leaf consumed during the first 9 months of 1950. Cigar leaf, ranked second in consumption, with 2.9 million pounds or 5 percent. An unofficial estimate for Canada's 1950 total consumption is placed at about 83.0 million pounds, compared with 80.0 million in 1949.

Total leaf imports for the 1950 calendar year was 1.3 million pounds as compared to 1.6 million in 1949 and 1.7 million in 1948. Cigar leaf constituted 859,000 pounds or 65 percent of the 1950 leaf imports, Turkish tobacco imports totaled 328,000 pounds or 24 percent, Flue-cured totaled only 45,800 pounds or about 3 percent of the leaf imports.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

URUGUAYAN DAIRY SITUATION

Milk production in Uruguay continued an upward trend in 1950, in spite of an outbreak of hoof-and-mouth disease of major proportions in the final quarter. For the year as a whole, milk production is estimated at approximately 981 million pounds, an increase of 13 percent over 1949. Better-than-average pasture conditions, larger dairy cattle numbers, increased consumer demand due to the continued high level of purchasing power and the Government's subsidy program which lowers prices to the consumer, contributed to the record production of 1950. About 75 percent of the total milk output in 1950 was consumed as fluid milk. The balance was utilized in manufacturing, particularly in butter and cheese production.

Butter production is estimated at approximately 5 million pounds in 1950, compared with 4 million pounds in each of the 2 preceding years. This output was made up almost entirely of sweet butter, as practically no salted butter is produced in Uruguay. Most of this production was consumed in Montevideo, since there is little demand for this product in the interior of the country. Only very small quantities are exported. Cheese production in 1950 is estimated at 13 million pounds, all of which was domestically consumed. There is little, if any, production of canned or dried milk in Uruguay, as there is practically no demand for these products. Casein production in 1950 approximated 3 million pounds, of which about 2 million pounds went to export markets.

Imports of dairy products are negligible, being limited by foreign exchange restrictions and protective tariffs.

SHORT FEED SUPPLY TO AFFECT NETHERLANDS POULTRY INDUSTRY

The poultry industry and, to a lesser extent, the hog industry are expected to bear the brunt of a 50 percent reduction in the March feed allocation in the Netherlands. The rapidly deteriorating feedgrain situation is attributed by the Government to higher prices for foreign feeds and to small domestic collections. The latter are said to be a result of relatively large collections of grains, especially corn, in the previous quarter. These large collections were, for the most part, fed out rather than stored and resulted in relatively high dairy and poultry production. It is expected that the reduction in feed allocations will be temporary and that regulations concerned with feed prices and subsidies will be forthcoming.

U.K. GRANTS DOMESTIC PRICE INCREASES FOR MEAT ANIMALS, MILK AND EGGS

Average prices for meat animals were recently increased by the British Government about 10 percent, and milk and egg prices about 5 percent. Livestock prices to producers are fixed each year in the annual price review. During the year there are few market variations except as determined by varying qualities of livestock marketed and a changing schedule of fixed prices on a seasonal basis. The new increases which were effective on April 1 are designed to stimulate meat production and maintain the present level of milk and egg production.

FATS AND OILS

ITALY REPORTS BELOW-AVERAGE OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION

Italian olive oil production during 1950-51 is estimated officially at 176,400 short tons, reports E.B. Shearer, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rome. In addition between 17,000 and 22,000 tons of "sansa" oil probably will be produced. This season's olive oil outturn represents a decrease of about 20 percent from last season's 220,000 tons and 16 percent from the 1940-41/1944-45 average of 210,000 tons. Dacus fly infestation, drought, and poor flowering, in addition to this being an "off season" for olive production, were responsible for the reduced output.

The short crop and low stocks existing at the beginning of the crop year will keep consumption low this year. However, since consumer preference for olive oil over seed oil is said to be diminishing constantly, especially in the North, the Government's efforts to encourage seed oil imports and direct Government purchases probably will succeed in maintaining per capita oil consumption at current levels.

Exports of edible olive oil from Italy during 1950 were 16,670 tons--nearly 3 times the quantity exported in 1949 but only about three-fourths the prewar average shipments. More than 50 percent of the exports during the first 11 months went to the United States. Olive oil imports into Italy during the first 11 months of 1950 totaled 23,598 tons (of which 22,377 were from Tunisia) and exceeded exports by almost 7,000 tons.

No export licenses for olive oil were being granted as of mid-March because of (1) the poor domestic olive crop, (2) the short world supply of seed oil, and (3) the growing unwillingness of other Mediterranean countries to export olive oil to Italy for re-export. Italian exporters reportedly are finding it increasingly difficult to compete with Spanish olive oil, the export of which is in effect subsidized by a differential exchange rate system.

Wholesale olive oil prices held steady through the fall and winter of 1950, following the sharp rise in August. Most of the August increase was due to an initial wave of both commercial speculative buying and consumer hoarding. Later, however, several factors were responsible for calming the market. Outstanding were (1) Government measures to assure adequate seed-oil imports including Government purchases and temporary tariff reductions, (2) shortage of commercial credit and low consumer purchasing power, and (3) the apparent weakening of the world crisis which made potential speculators more careful and may even have caused some hoarded oil to be sold.

Wholesale prices rose slightly in January but lost a few points again in late February and early March. Unless the international situation takes a turn for the worse, it is not believed there will be any unusual increase in olive oil prices during the remainder of the crop year.

Wholesale prices on February 26 on the Bari exchange, ex-warehouse, ranged from 51,500-52,500 lire per quintal ($748-$762 per short ton) for extra fine, maximum acidity 1 percent to 48,500-49,000 ($704-$711) for mixed oils, type B. As of February 15, wholesale prices at Catanzaro, f.o.b. railroad, ranged from 52,500 lire per quintal ($762 per short ton) for oil with maximum acidity 1 percent down to 33,000 lire ($479) for industrial oil, basic acidity 20 percent.

A sizeable increase in Italy's olive tree acreage can be expected from the land reform program which, in a relatively short period, requires a total of over 1.2 million acres to change hands, mostly in South and Central Italy. A large share of the expropriated and re-allotted land will be planted to olive trees. In addition, the Government is taking various steps to protect and improve existing acreage.

URUGUAY ANNOUNCES EXPORT CONDITIONS FOR FLAXSEED, LINSEED OIL, AND BY-PRODUCTS

The Uruguayan Government in an executive decree dated February 16, 1951, announced the export conditions for flaxseed, linseed oil, and by-products from the 1950-51 crop, reports Dale E. Farringer, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Montevideo. Although the new decree cancels the previous decree of December 13, 1949, for the most part it appears to be virtually the same as the latter. Exporters of flaxseed again are allowed to ship flaxseed amounting to 150 percent of the tonnage of linseed oil exported as provided in the former decree. Also the established exchange rates continue the same--for flaxseed 1.519 pesos per dollar and for cakes, expellers, meal, and linseed oil, 1.78 pesos per dollar.

U. S. 1950 SESAME SEED IMPORTS INCREASE FROM 1949

United States imports of sesame seed in 1950 totaled 10,323 short tons, almost double the 1949 arrivals but only about one-third the volume received on the average in prewar years. Although the principal country of origin, as in prewar years, was again China, shipments from this source amounted to less than one-fourth the 1935-39 average. Arrivals from Nicaragua ranked second in size but were less than half the record volume imported from that country in 1948. Smaller quantities were received, principally from El Salvador, Guatemala, Turkey, and India.

Imports of sesame seed oil into the United States in postwar years have dropped sharply from prewar. Only 124 tons arrived in 1950, whereas the 1935-39 average arrivals amounted to 5,332 tons. Last year other North American countries supplied 67 tons, China 28 tons, and European countries 25 tons.

UNITED STATES: Sesame seed imports,
1950 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949 1/	1950 1/
North America:					
El Salvador	16	593	1,812	1,210	705
Guatemala	4	-	402	-	242
Nicaragua	97	3,489	6,713	2,771	2,852
Other	141	52	71	66	85
Total	258	4,134	8,998	4,047	3,884
South America	68	28	136	2	17
Europe	7	-	-	-	-
Asia:					
China	26,501	467	929	1,292	6,124
Hong Kong	638	5	59	67	26
India	484	34	-	-	127
Turkey	16	-	281	-	136
Other	1,031	72	404	1	9
Total	28,670	578	1,673	1,360	6,422
Africa	210	-	496	-	-
Grand total	29,213	4,740	11,303	5,409	10,323

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

U.S. TUNG OIL ARRIVALS IN 1950

The United States imported 56,242 tons of tung oil during 1950--considerably more than the 32,484 tons received in 1949 but 5,000 tons less than the average tonnage of prewar years. The bulk of the oil continued to come from China. (The Chinese embargo on shipments to the United States became effective in mid-December 1950). Substantial quantities arrived from Argentina the past two years--8,244 tons in 1949 and 9,306 tons in 1950. These were the first shipments to the United States from this country.

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It is noted that statistics of the Bureau of the Census show the original source of imports into the United States as accurately as can be ascertained. Tung oil arrivals into the United States from China and Hong Kong, as shown in the accompanying table, are not to be considered in disagreement with the volume reportedly sent to the United States through the port of Hong Kong as shown in the article "China's 1950 Tung Oil Exports Through the Port of Hong Kong", published in this issue.

UNITED STATES: Tung oil imports,
1950 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949 1/	1950 1/
South America:					
Argentina	-	-	-	8,244	9,306
Brazil	1	-	737	-	571
Paraguay	-	-	-	66	302
Total	1	-	737	8,310	10,179
Europe	126	-	-	-	
Asia:					
China	56,609	60,552	64,789	21,721	44,114
Hong Kong	4,725	230	1,081	2,453	1,949
Other	134	-	34	-	-
Total	61,468	60,782	65,904	24,174	46,063
Grand total	61,595	60,782	66,641	32,484	56,242

1/ Preliminary.

U. S. Bureau of the Census.

CHINA'S 1950 TUNG OIL EXPORTS THROUGH PORT OF HONG KONG

Chinese tung oil exports of 3,145 short tons through the port of Hong Kong in December 1950 were the smallest for any month since March of that year. This may be attributed partially to the caution and confusion which prevailed in the Hong Kong tung oil market following the restrictions imposed by the United States against exports to Communist China and the subsequent proclamation by China banning the exportation of certain commodities, including tung oil, to the United States.

Total exports of tung oil from Hong Kong in 1950 were 85 percent larger than the 26,662 tons shipped in 1949. Of the 1950 shipments 57 percent went to the United States. Monthly shipments during 1950 and the quantities consigned to the United States were as follows:

Month	Total	To U.S.
	(Short tons)	
January	304	105
February	1,479	111
March	1,913	383
April	3,244	1,155
May	3,620	1,727
June	5,233	2,726
July	4,122	1,970
August	7,381	5,344
September	8,424	5,561
October	6,413	4,397
November	4,063	2,320
December	3,145	2,335
Total	49,341	28,134

Local wholesale prices for tung oil were H. K. $190 per picul of 133-1/3 pounds ex-warehouse on December 1 ($442 per short ton) and rose to H. K. $210 ($488) by December 30.

Imports of tung oil into Hong Kong during 1950 totaled 51,786 tons. All of the oil originated in China.

CEYLON INCREASES EXPORT DUTY ON PRINCIPAL COCONUT PRODUCTS

Ceylon's Minister of Finance announced to the House of Representatives on March 14, 1951, that an increase in export taxes on Ceylon's principal commodities would be applied effective as of March 15, states Myron L. Black, American Embassy, Colombo. Included in this group were copra, coconut oil, and coconut poonac (oil cake). The new export duties compared with those applicable from July 1, 1950, through March 14, 1951 are as follows:

Commodity	Unit	July 1, 1950		March 15, 1951	
		Rupees	Dollars	Rupees	Dollars
Copra..................	Long ton	300.00	62.85	400.00	83.80
Coconut oil............	" "	243.75	51.07	325.00	68.09
Fresh coconuts.........	Thousand	42.00	8.80	unchanged	
Desiccated coconut.....	Pound	0.10	.02	unchanged	
Coconut poonac (oil cake)..........	Long ton	100.00	20.95	200.00	41.90

Certain exceptions to the above increases were provided to allow shippers to fulfill contract entered into prior to the effective date of the new tax. No exemption will be granted on these contract to goods shipped after June 1, except for coconut oil, which must be exported prior to July 1.

It is not expected that the increased taxes will materially affect the export prices of these commodities. The burden is intended to fall on the producers who have benefited from the inflated prices of the past year.

The new duties on all principal export commodities will provide an additional revenue of about Rs. 100 million ($20,950,000) per year. However, all of the increase resulting from the higher export taxes will not represent a net increment to the country's revenue inasmuch as substantial income taxes are levied on profits which will be reduced because of the export tax increase.

BELGIAN CONGO PALM PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO EXPAND

Production of palm oil, palm kernels, and palm kernel oil in the Belgian Congo during 1950 reached a record high, thereby continuing the steady increase of recent years, according to Edwin M. Harbordt, American Consulate General, Leopoldville.

Palm oil output in 1950 has been tentatively estimated at 182,000 short tons, a gain of more than one-tenth from the 165,000 tons in 1949. This increase resulted principally from more intensive exploitation of natural palms by independent native producers rather than from increased output from European plantations. The incentive provided by steadily increasing market prices coupled with increases in the obligatory minimum price decreed by the Colonial Government for payment to independent native sellers, pushed production of palm oil up to this all-time record.

The current trend indicates that output of palm oil in 1951 will rise to a new record level of possibly 193,000 tons, of which about 45 percent is expected to represent the output from European-managed plantations and 55 percent that of native plantations.

Exports of palm oil totaled 143,443 tons in 1950, an increase of 7 percent from 1949 and nearly double the 1935-39 average volume of 72,450 tons. The largest tonnage in 1950--59,324 tons--was consigned to Belgium. The United States took 33,154 tons, an increase of over 10,000 tons from the quantity purchased in the previous year. The Netherlands, Western Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom also took sizeable quantities in 1950.

Although an estimate of palm kernel production in 1950 is not available, export figures indicate that the volume of palm kernels that entered trade channels established a new record. A total of 94,546 tons of palm kernels were exported, representing also an increase of 7 percent over 1949 but only slightly more than the prewar figure of 94,000 tons. Belgium, Western Germany, the Netherlands, and France took the bulk of these shipments--42,356, 19,873, 14,939, and 12,204 tons, respectively.

Production of palm kernel oil is believed to have increased materially in 1950, but to have been absorbed by the expanding soap, margarine, and oil treating industries of the Colony. During 1950 the first oleomargarine manufacturing plant in the Congo was put into operation at Leopoldville, and a large soap manufacturer, also in Leopoldville, began extensive plant expansion.

Palm kernel oil exports of 16,075 tons, although only 300 tons greater than the prior year, indicate the steady increase in shipments from a prewar figure of less than 500 tons annually. Belgium took 6,765 tons, the Union of South Africa 4,927 tons, and Western Germany 1,851 tons.

Large stocks of palm products normally are not held in the Congo because of lack of storage facilities. It would appear that there is at any given time about 10,000 tons of palm oil and 7,000 tons of palm kernels at transit points or in movement toward ports of the Colony.

The world markets for all palm products have generated a considerable price rise on the domestic food market, where palm oil is one of the most important items in the native diet. The retail price of a bottle containing three-fourths of a liter of palm oil rose by nearly 200 percent at Leoldpoldville between the end of 1949 and January 1951.

The rising price level, coupled with the Government's policy of subsidizing local processing industries, has resulted in 3 prices for palm oil--(1) for export, (2) for domestic soap and margarine manufacture, and (3) for domestic consumption by natives. Price (1) is determined by world market levels; price (2) also is influenced by overseas prices but benefits from lower internal transportation rates (currently five-sixths of the rate applied to exports); and price (3), which was instituted in January 1951, is rigidly controlled by the Government on the basis of a value of 10,000 francs per net ton ($181.50 per short ton), the free market price of August 1950 at Leopoldville. The Leopoldville free market price for exportable palm oil currently is over 20,000 francs per metric ton ($363) as against 8,700 francs at mid-1950 ($158). Exporters, however, do not sustain the loss by selling at 10,000 francs in the domestic market. The difference between the controlled price and the price that would be realized on the export market for oil of the same acid content is returned to the wholesaler by the Government. Thus the Colonial treasury is currently subsidizing native consumers of palm oil at a rate in excess of 10,000 francs a ton. However, this subsidy is paid in largest measure out of the proceeds from the increased export duties.

The price rise for palm kernels has paralleled that of palm oil. Whereas the Antwerp price was 9,750 francs in September 1950 ($177 per short ton) the latest quotation was 14,750 francs ($268). Palm kernel oil prices, which formerly exceeded those of palm oil, are now the equivalent.

Export duties on palm kernels (15 percent ad valorem) and on palm kernel oil (3 percent) have been in effect since early 1949. The 10 percent duty on palm oil exports, effective in early 1949, was raised to 12 percent at mid-year, 15 percent in January 1951, and to 18 percent in mid-February 1951.

MEXICAN IMPORT TARIFF ON ANIMAL FATS REVISED UPWARD

A Mexican decree increasing the import duties on hydrogenated animal fats (tallow) and hog lard became effective January 30, 1951, according to A.M. Gomez, American Embassy, Mexico City. The decree, issued by the President of Mexico and published January 4, 1951, in the Diario Oficial lifted all important prohibitions established in July 1947 and June 1949 and listed the import duties applicable to these items. The new tariff duties apply to many products formerly covered by the reciprocal trade agreement between the United States and Mexico which expired December 31, 1950.

The new rate on hydrogenated animal tallow is 20 centavos per gross kilogram (U.S. 1.05 cents per pound) plus 30 percent ad valorem, based on the current official valuation of 6.80 pesos per kilogram (35.7 cents per pound). The rate on "animal fats-not specified" remains unchanged from the old tariff and is 20 centavos (1.05 cents per pound) plus 10 percent ad valorem on the official valuation of 4.40 pesos per gross kilogram (23.1 cents per pound) when shipped in containers of 50 kilograms or less. When in containers of more than 50 kilograms, the official valuation is decreased to 3.15 pesos per kilogram (16.5 cents per pound).

Mexican import duties on animal fats as revised upward January 20, 1951, with comparisons before and under the trade agreement with the United States, are as follows:

Item	Before Jan. 30, 1943	Effective Jan. 30, 1943 1/	Effective Dec. 15, 1947 2/	Effective Jan. 20, 1951
	Pesos 3/ per kilogram 4/			
Animal fats, hydrogenated, gross weight	0.45	0.35	1.95	2.24
Animal fats, not specified, gross weight	-	-	0.64	0.64
Hog lard, in tank cars, net weight	0.23	0.18	0.55	1.38
Hog lard, in containers, gross weight	0.32	0.25	1.05	1.80
Lard compounds, in containers, gross weight	-	-	1.45	1.80

1/ Reciprocal trade agreement between Mexico and the United States, effective January 30, 1943, and terminated December 31, 1950.

2/ Tariff rates as revised by Mexico pursuant to Article XI of the Trade Agreement, which provided for modification of concessions to prevent serious injury to domestic producers.

3/ The official values of the Mexican peso in terms of U.S. currency as of the months and years indicated are as follows: 1939-$0.19303; January 1943-$0.2057; December 1947-$0.20575; January 1951-$0.11561.

4/ One kilogram equals 2.2046 pounds.

Mexican import duties are compound and consist of a specific duty plus an ad valorem duty levied on the declared invoice value of a commodity or on the value as determined by the official Mexican price, whichever is higher. Licenses are required for the importation of hog lard, tallow, and lard compounds into the country.

U.K. WHALE OIL PRODUCTION IN 1950-51

The United Kingdom's whale oil production from the 1950-51 season is expected to be about 76,000 short tons compared with 88,180 tons in 1949-50, according to end-of-season indications, reports William Kling, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, London. Indications are also that sperm oil production from this past season will be 9,920 tons, or somewhat greater than the 8,820 tons produced in the previous season.

The United Kingdom's smaller production of whale oil this last season is attributed to the greater number of expeditions operating in the Antarctic while the total whale catch continued to be limited to a maximum of 16,000 blue-whale units. Sperm oil production increased because of more favorable prices and the fact that the number of sperm whales that may be taken is not limited.

VENEZUELAN COCONUT GROWERS SEEK HIGHER COPRA PRICE

The Venezuelan Agricultural Association has requested the National Supply Commission to increase the price of local copra, according to James H. Kempton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Caracas. Calling attention to the fact that the Commission recently has given the local manufacturers of vegetable lard an increased price (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 26, 1951 the Association asks for "equal treatment" of the copra producers.

The present price is $300 per metric ton ($272 per short ton) at the ports and the Association contends that imported copra now costs $330 ($299). Furthermore, it alleges that the oil yield of local copra exceeds that of the imported product and hence should bring a higher price for that reason alone not even considering the increase in cost of production.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

PARAGUAY INCREASES RICE PRODUCTION

The 1950-51 acreage seeded to rice in Paraguay is estimated at 25,000 acres compared with 22,000 acres in the year before, according to W. F. Lebus, Assistant Attache, American Embassy, Asuncion. Production is forecast at 44 million pounds of rough rice compared with 40 million pounds in the preceding year, and with the prewar average (1936-40) of 9 million pounds.

While the planted acreage is somewhat less than the previous estimate of 27,000 acres, it is the largest in Paraguay during the last 6 years. Growing conditions have been generally favorable during the stages of early development and pests and plant diseases have not been reported as in 1949-50.

PARAGUAY: Rice acreage and production,
averages 1936-45, annual 1949-51

Year	Planted acreage	Yield per acre Rough	Production	
			Rough	In terms of milled
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average:				
1936-40	5	1,760	8.8	6
1941-45	15	1,760	26.4	17
1949	16	1,931	30.9	20
1950	22	1,805	39.7	26
1951	25	1,764	44.1	29

Compiled from official sources.

To formulate a farm policy for the years 1950-51, a meeting was held in June 1950 at the Bank of Paraguay in Asuncion, which was attended by representatives of the Government, and agricultural organizations, and producers. The basic purpose of the policy as announced was to increase agricultural production, not only to neet the country's needs but also for the purpose of increasing exports. This policy has been implemented by the following means: (a) a guarantee of minimum prices on important agricultural products, including rice, (b) the purchase and distribution of fertilizers and insecticides, (c) the acquisition and distribution of good quality seed for sale to farmers at cost plus handling charges, (d) an expanded program of agricultural credits, and (e) the purchase and distribution to farmers of agricultural machinery and implements. These have contributed to an increase in rice acreage and production.

Trade statistics for 1950 are not yet available, but approximately 13 million pounds of rough rice are believed to have been exported, primarily to Argentina and Brazil. Trade agreements were negotiated by the Paraguayan Government during late 1949 and 1950 with Argentina, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Spain, Yugoslavia and Germany. It is expected that increasing sales of rice to the signatory countries can be effected within the framework of the agreements.

Rice imports into Paraguay during 1950 consisted of 330,000 pounds of Zenith seed, purchased in the United States, which was planted in selected areas in order to provide sufficient grain for future seedings. Agricultural technicians believe that the Zenith variety gives a greater yield than the Blue Rose and is resistant to the plant diseases which have reduced the rice yields in Paraguay.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U. S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1951	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U. S. cents per pound	
					Spot quotation	Export and intermediate taxes
Alexandria		Kantar				
Ashmouni, Good........	4-5	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	118.00	68.40	11.83
Ashmouni, FGF..........	"	"	"	104.00	60.28	11.83
Karnak, Good..........	"	"	"	1/ 166.50	96.51	11.83
Karnak, FGF...........	"	"	"	151.00	87.53	11.83
Bombay		Candy				
Jarila, Fine...........	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	2/ 770.00	20.50	21.30
Broach Vijay, Fine.....	"	"	"	2/ 840.00	22.36	21.30
Karachi		Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine....	4-4	82.28 lbs.	"	136.00	49.86	23.09
289F Sind, SG, Fine....	"	"	"	142.00	52.06	23.09
289F Punjab, SG, Fine..	"	"	"	164.00	60.13	23.09
Buenos Aires		Metric ton				
Type B.................	4-5	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	3/ 8600.00	78.02	7.28
Lima		Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3½.......	4-3	101.4 lbs.	Sol	(not quoted)		
Tanguis, Type 5........	"	"	"	(not quoted)		
Pima, Type 1...........	"	"	"	907.00	59.82	42.95
Recife		Arroba				
Mata, Type 4...........	4-5	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	3/ 390.00	64.16	2.4% ad valorem
Sertao, Type 5.........	"	"	"	(not available)		
Sertao, Type 4.........	"	"	"	3/ 410.00	67.45	"
Sao Paulo		"	"			
Sao Paulo, Type 5......	"	"	"	400.00	65.81	3.4% ad valorem
Torreon		Sp. quintal				
Middling, 15/16".......	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	550.00	62.70	12.08
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av.Mid.15/16"..	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	44.86	----

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U. S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U. S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Omitted from last week's table: Alexandria, March 29, in tallaris per kantar with U.S. cents per pound in parentheses, Karnak, Good, 166.50 (96.51).

2/ Ceiling price.

3/ Nominal.

ARGENTINE COTTON ACREAGE SMALLER THAN PREVIOUSLY FORECAST

A recent official estimate of the area planted to cotton in Argentina has shown a substantial decrease from earlier optimistic forecasts, according to Clarence A. Boonstra, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. The planted acreage for 1950-51 is now estimated at around 1,250,000, only 4 percent above the 1,200,000 acres planted in 1949-50. The high prices and active demand for cotton in 1949-50 led the trade to believe the planted area in 1950-51 would reach 1,450,000 acres. However, the shortage of labor along with the lack of sufficient machinery and transportation facilities in the cotton region appears to have caused the acreage to fall short of these original estimates.

The present crop is about 20 days later than usual because of prolonged cool weather. This lateness reduces considerably the chances for large production. Frosts ordinarily begin in May, cutting short the harvest. High yields in Argentina result either from an early crop or from delayed frosts which permit growth to continue into June. Under these circumstances the Embassy estimates the crop for this season will be around 505,000 bales (500 pounds gross), only 79 percent of the 1949-50 production of about 640,000 bales.

Mill consumption of cotton during 1950 has been estimated by the trade at 436,000 bales. This was an increase of 7 percent above 1949 consumption, continuing the upward trend which has been unbroken since 1941. A further increase, possibly to 460,000 bales, is considered likely in 1951. Stocks held by the mills on March 1, 1951, were at a rather low level of 115,000 bales as compared with 184,000 bales the year before. Mill owners have experienced much difficulty in financing inventories because of the high prices and consequently have reduced their raw cotton stocks. On the other hand, cotton held by dealers is estimated at 133,000 bales, a great deal higher than normal. More than half of this amount is expected to enter domestic consumption.

The favorable world market in 1950 enabled Argentina to sell the available surplus rapidly at high prices. During 1950, exports totaled 161,000 bales, principally to the United Kingdom and Japan, with considerable quantities going to Spain, Italy, and Belgium. Exports in 1951 are expected to decrease to around 138,000 bales due to the smaller crop this season. Only the poorer quality cotton has been exported in recent years, since production of the better qualities has been insufficient for domestic consumption. Imports of long-staple cotton, needed to supplement the domestic production, reached almost 40,000 bales in 1950, more than 95 percent originating in Peru.

1950-51 PRODUCTION OF COTTON IN GREECE REVISED UPWARD

The Hellenic Cotton Board recently increased its estimate of the 1950-51 cotton crop in Greece by 8,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) from 103,000 bales to 111,000 bales, according to H. K. Nelson, American Embassy, Athens. The acreage figure remained at 191,000. Increased yields, which caused the revision, were the result of favorable weather conditions during the fall, limited damage by insects and diseases, and improved methods of cultivation combined with better seed varieties. The 1950-51 crop is about 55 percent above the 72,000-bale production of the previous season and 44 percent above the prewar (1935-39) average production.

Central Greece and Macedonia are the 2 most important producing areas within the country. Although Central Greece, with 81,000 acres planted to cotton in 1950-51, produced 44,000 bales, Macedonia, with 1,000 fewer acres had an output of 54,000 bales. Together these 2 regions produced 88 percent of the current season's crop.

Consumption in the first 5 months of 1950-51 has been at a level about 20 percent above that of the previous season. During August through December 1950, consumption was more than 45,000 bales, while during the 1949-50 season 91,000 bales were consumed in Greece. This increase in consumption will be more than compensated for by the large crop in the current season. Imports during the first 5 months of 1950-51, which amounted to 16,000 bales (about 97 percent of which was cotton from the United States), further increased the supply. On January 1, 1951, stocks in Greece were reported to be more than 110,000 bales, adequate to meet domestic consumption requirements through November 1951. The Hellenic Cotton Board announced that, because of the large supply, imports in the near future will be confined to about 2,300 bales of long-staple Egyptian cotton to supplement the local production. In addition, the Board has made plans to export 1,000 metric tons (about 4,600 bales) during April and succeeding months.

Prices to the cotton grower in Greece have continued to be below the Government security price of 41.2 cents a pound for Middling 15/16 inch. Although the prevailing price in Greece is below the average world price, it nevertheless is above domestic prices for alternative products such as tobacco or currants.

The advantage in price which cotton enjoys will tend to increase cotton acreage in 1951-52. The Hellenic Cotton Board hopes to encourage improved cotton production by making machinery available at lower prices, distributing seed of higher yielding varieties, enlarging the number of "one variety" communities, and increasing control of pests and diseases.

Albany